

SENATE BILL 948

By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-414, relative to the offense of child endangerment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-414, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) A person who violates § 55-10-401, and who at the time of the offense is accompanied by a child under sixteen (16) years of age, commits the offense of child endangerment.

(2) Child endangerment is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a mandatory minimum incarceration of eleven (11) months, twenty-nine (29) days and a mandatory minimum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), which incarceration and fine shall be in addition to any other incarceration and fine required by law.

(b)

(1) A person who violates § 55-10-401, and who at the time of the offense is accompanied by a child under sixteen (16) years of age, commits the offense of aggravated child endangerment if the child suffers serious bodily injury as a result of the violation of § 55-10-401.

(2) Aggravated child endangerment is a Class D felony.

(c)

(1) A person who violates § 55-10-401, and who at the time of the offense is accompanied by a child under sixteen (16) years of age, commits the offense of especially aggravated child endangerment if the death of the child is the result of the violation of § 55-10-401.

(2) Especially aggravated child endangerment is a Class C felony.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.